

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3

4 CHRISTOPHER MILLER,)
5)
6 Plaintiff,) CASE NO. 3:10-CV-597
7 vs.)
8)
9 CITY OF ITHACA, et al.,)
10)
Defendants.)
10 _____)
10)

11 **TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**
12 **BEFORE THE HONORABLE GARY L. SHARPE**
13 **FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2015**
14 **ALBANY, NEW YORK**

15 **FOR THE PLAINTIFF:**

16 Bosman Law office
17 By: AJ Bosman, Esq.
18 6599 Martin Street
19 Rome, New York 13440

20 **FOR THE DEFENDANTS:**

21 Stokes, Wagner Law Firm
22 By: Paul E. Wagner, Esq., Anne-Marie Mizel, Esq., and
23 Hayden R. Pace, Esq.
903 Hanshaw Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

24 **THERESA J. CASAL, RPR, CRR, CSR**

25 Federal Official Court Reporter
445 Broadway, Room 509
Albany, New York 12207

THERESA J. CASAL, RPR, CRR
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT - NDNY

1 (Court commenced at 831 AM.)

2 THE COURT: Good morning.

3 MS. BOSMAN: Good morning.

4 MR. WAGNER: Good morning, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: The first issue I'm dealing with is
6 Defendant's Exhibit 49, and I have before me the most recent
7 redacted version. Follow along with me, if you would.

8 MR. WAGNER: I will, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: You're not gonna end up doin' this,
10 Mr. Wagner, you know you aren't.

11 MR. WAGNER: I'm following, though, I got the
12 highlighter out. So you're gonna tell us what more should
13 be redacted?

14 THE COURT: Exactly.

15 MR. WAGNER: That's what I thought.

16 THE COURT: And then I'll hear from the parties
17 after I tell you what more should be redacted.

18 MR. WAGNER: Yes.

19 THE COURT: The first place is page 12 --

20 MR. WAGNER: And you're going off the bottom pages
21 or the one in the upper left?

22 THE COURT: I am going off the bottom page number.

23 MR. WAGNER: Okay.

24 THE COURT: So this would be D-49, page 12 of 53.

25 MR. WAGNER: Okay.

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 THE COURT: Under subsection D, "the grievant's
2 hiring and employment by the Ithaca Police Department."

3 MR. WAGNER: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: After the second full sentence, ending
5 with the citation to C.13,p.M, a bunch of zeroes, 34.

6 MR. WAGNER: Yeah.

7 THE COURT: The remainder of that paragraph,
8 "Basile, who was Chief from August of 1997" through, "wasn't
9 telling me the truth, TR1038," the remainder of that
10 paragraph should be redacted.

11 MR. WAGNER: Got it.

12 THE COURT: Page 21 of 53 over on to page 22 of
13 53.

14 MR. WAGNER: Yes, sir.

15 THE COURT: In the last paragraph, beginning with
16 the Deputy Chief left work at 3:42. You find it?

17 MR. WAGNER: I did.

18 THE COURT: Over onto page 22, through the end of
19 "Deputy Chief Barber also received a similar phone call"
20 should be deleted.

21 MR. WAGNER: Got it.

22 THE COURT: Page 29 of 53, the header two-thirds
23 of the way down the page, number three, "the timing of the
24 Notice of Discipline" should be deleted.

25 MR. WAGNER: Yes, sir.

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 THE COURT: Page 30. In the final paragraph under
2 sub A, about a middle of the way down, you have redacted
3 through "need not be explored." You find that sentence?

4 MR. WAGNER: Page 30, your Honor?

5 THE COURT: Page 30 of 53.

6 MS. McCLOSKEY: He's looking at a highlighted
7 version, you have a redacted version.

8 MR. WAGNER: I am looking at the proof in this
9 proceeding.

10 THE COURT: Precisely. I'm looking at the
11 highlighted version, she's right.

12 MR. WAGNER: Okay.

13 THE COURT: It's easier for me to follow the flow
14 of information. But I had compared, and the highlighted and
15 redacted is the same. She's helpful because she's
16 absolutely right. The remainder of that paragraph goes out.

17 MR. WAGNER: The entirety of the page?

18 THE COURT: That's right, as you've already
19 redacted sub B.

20 MR. WAGNER: So just to be clear, that whole --
21 two paragraphs remaining are both out?

22 THE COURT: If you conclude that last sentence as
23 a separate paragraph, yes. I do, too.

24 MR. WAGNER: May I ask a question? Is that 'cause
25 you'll give a separate instruction on the fact of the

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 lawsuit had nothing to do with the NOD?

2 THE COURT: I hadn't -- I'm gonna talk to you
3 about that.

4 MR. WAGNER: Okay.

5 THE COURT: But -- I'm not substituting
6 Mr. Maroney's judgment for the jury's about retaliation.

7 MR. WAGNER: Right.

8 THE COURT: So it's out.

9 MR. WAGNER: You recall Maroney's decision here
10 and that point was based on Judge McAvoy's summary judgment
11 ruling that knocked that out.

12 THE COURT: I understand.

13 MR. WAGNER: Okay, got it.

14 THE COURT: I'm not sure I understand why that's a
15 concern for you, but I'll talk to you about that.

16 MR. WAGNER: Thank you.

17 THE COURT: That's all the further redactions.

18 MR. WAGNER: Okay.

19 THE COURT: And I appreciate the renewed
20 redactions. I thought they substantially took care of the
21 issues that I had with the earlier version.

22 Now let me hear from the parties as to what
23 remains as to whether further redactions are sought.
24 Plaintiff.

25 MS. BOSMAN: Your Honor, maintaining our objection

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 to the content at all, we're -- we would consent to the
2 first page, 1 of 53 --

3 THE COURT: I'm not asking for consent. I want to
4 know what objections you have to the redacted version with
5 the supplementation that I have just made and then I'll rule
6 on your objections.

7 MS. BOSMAN: Okay.

8 THE COURT: I understand you maintain your
9 objection to the entirety of the document, I've already
10 overruled that objection. Go ahead.

11 MS. BOSMAN: Okay. The page 2, where it
12 references the number of witnesses that were called, the
13 bottom paragraph, we believe that the length of the
14 transcript and the number of witnesses is misrepresenting
15 because there was a great deal to do with Marlon Byrd's
16 allegations of involvement in drug matters which goes on to
17 page 3 of 53 to the top, the close of that paragraph. With
18 respect to the remainder of page 3, we would submit that the
19 two paragraphs under "testimonial and evidentiary
20 matters" --

21 THE COURT: That's already been redacted.

22 MS. BOSMAN: Yeah, we would say that that would
23 stay in, because it reflects that Mr. Miller waived his
24 Fifth Amendment right and so those first two paragraphs that
25 start with one question that arose and the related question.

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 THE COURT: Your objection to both of those
2 objections are overruled. I do take care of your concern in
3 my jury charge when I reference the arbitration decision.

4 MS. BOSMAN: With respect to page 4 of 53, the two
5 bottom paragraphs -- sorry, the three bottom paragraphs, our
6 position is that all three of those paragraphs should come
7 in or none of them should come in. The specific language
8 regarding Article III, the second and third paragraph, there
9 is no reason to redact those. We would challenge that those
10 should remain in.

11 THE COURT: Overruled.

12 MS. BOSMAN: On page 4 of -- I'm sorry, page 5 of
13 53, "the grievant's application and employment history"
14 heading --

15 THE COURT: Yes.

16 MS. BOSMAN: -- we believe should be redacted.

17 THE COURT: Overruled.

18 MS. BOSMAN: The two paragraphs immediately
19 following regarding "parties' respective versions of the
20 facts, with deletions and additions by the arbitrator, are
21 set forth in Sections B through G herein," we believe that
22 that language should stay in.

23 THE COURT: Overruled.

24 MS. BOSMAN: The next paragraph -- I'm sorry, the
25 next heading, "the Vinton, Virginia, Police Department

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 employment." We would submit that that heading should go
2 out.

3 THE COURT: Overruled.

4 MS. BOSMAN: And then on page 6 of 53, the last
5 paragraph on that page that says "there is evidence in the
6 record to support the grievant's testimony," that paragraph
7 should stay in.

8 THE COURT: Overruled.

9 MS. BOSMAN: On page 7 of 53, we request that the
10 jury -- the last paragraph of that page I understand is
11 still in and "it is undisputed and indisputable that the
12 grievant did not disclose his Vinton employment," we would
13 request that that go out.

14 THE COURT: Overruled.

15 MS. BOSMAN: "The Cargill employment" heading we
16 would submit goes out.

17 THE COURT: Overruled.

18 MS. BOSMAN: And we request then that the jury be
19 advised that these records were obtained after the NOD was
20 issued in 2010.

21 THE COURT: Overruled.

22 MS. BOSMAN: Page 8 of 53, the two paragraphs that
23 identify "the grievant was first suspended from Cargill" and
24 "about a week after the grievant returned, he was discharged
25 for reportedly putting an unknown substance into another

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 employee's locker," we would submit that those go out.

2 THE COURT: Overruled.

3 MS. BOSMAN: The statement on the bottom of page 8
4 that says, "I share the City's incredulity," should go out.

5 THE COURT: That is out. Are ya lookin' at a
6 redacted version or not?

7 MS. BOSMAN: Yes. I'm looking at the --

8 THE COURT: If you are, then why are ya tellin' me
9 that oughta go out when it's already out?

10 MS. BOSMAN: Page 8 --

11 THE COURT: I take it ya have no answer to that
12 question.

13 MS. BOSMAN: Your Honor, I did not receive the
14 printed copy. I'm working from one that we redacted in
15 looking at theirs that was sent online.

16 THE COURT: Are ya tellin' me they didn't provide
17 you with a copy of the redacted version?

18 MS. BOSMAN: Not hard copy, no; they e-mailed it
19 to us last night. The following page, page 9, we would
20 submit that "the grievant testified that," bottom two
21 paragraphs should be left in.

22 THE COURT: Overruled.

23 MS. BOSMAN: And the "Lieutenant Corbin
24 acknowledged that there had been controversy."

25 THE COURT: You wish in?

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 MS. BOSMAN: Yes.

2 THE COURT: Overruled.

3 MS. BOSMAN: On page 10, Police Department
4 application is all out, as I understand it, so we would
5 submit that the heading goes out.

6 THE COURT: What are you talking about?

7 MS. BOSMAN: On the bottom of page 10, "on
8 January 1, 2010, grievant completed an employment
9 application," under Horseheads. We believe that that should
10 all go out.

11 THE COURT: The first paragraph under subsection 6
12 is in. The remainder has already been redacted.

13 MS. BOSMAN: Okay.

14 THE COURT: So the objection's overruled.

15 MS. BOSMAN: Page 11, as I understand it has been
16 redacted through subsection C.

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 MS. BOSMAN: We would submit that "the grievant's
19 October 5, 1999, Ithaca Police Department application" and
20 the remainder of page 11 should be redacted out.

21 THE COURT: Denied.

22 MS. BOSMAN: On page 12, under "the grievant's
23 hiring and employment by the Ithaca Police Department,"
24 under subsection D, the problem there is there's reference
25 to exhibits which are not included. I understand the Court

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 has eliminated that after the citation to M0034. We would
2 submit that following paragraph -- no, that's okay. You've
3 taken that paragraph out.

4 So page 13, the paragraph regarding March of 1996,
5 "Sergeant Vallely's report summarized his conversation with
6 the grievant," we would submit that that goes out.

7 THE COURT: Overruled.

8 MS. BOSMAN: Where it states, the next paragraph,
9 it says that why would -- I believe that that paragraph,
10 "the grievant was asked at the arbitration," should be in.

11 THE COURT: Overruled.

12 MS. BOSMAN: He didn't have time to do it,
13 that's -- that paragraph that ends, "he didn't have time to
14 do it."

15 THE COURT: Yes, I understand what you're saying.

16 MS. BOSMAN: We believe that should be in.

17 THE COURT: I've overruled your objection.

18 MS. BOSMAN: On page 14, the bottom paragraph I
19 believe is the only one that's in --

20 THE COURT: Yes.

21 MS. BOSMAN: -- on that page.

22 THE COURT: Right.

23 MR. WAGNER: Just to be clear, your Honor, we have
24 the bottom section, sub set E with the small paragraph or
25 sentence.

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 MR. WAGNER: Okay.

3 MS. BOSMAN: Okay. And then you, your Honor,
4 eliminated the paragraphs that followed.

5 We believe that the -- during the arbitration that
6 the grievant testified he'd sent a resume we believe should
7 remain in, and that concludes page 14.

8 THE COURT: Overruled.

9 MS. BOSMAN: On page 15, we believe that entire
10 subject should go out --

11 THE COURT: Overruled.

12 MS. BOSMAN: -- as hearsay within hearsay.

13 Page 16 of 53, the first two paragraphs should
14 stay in if the remainder comes in.

15 THE COURT: Overruled.

16 MS. BOSMAN: The Craig's List references on
17 page 17 should go out.

18 THE COURT: How far --

19 MS. BOSMAN: The third paragraph from the bottom.

20 THE COURT: It is out.

21 MS. BOSMAN: It is. Page 18.

22 THE COURT: The entire page is already out.

23 MS. BOSMAN: Is out. Next page is out, 19 is out.

24 THE COURT: You're over to page 21, subparagraph
25 G, "the Notice of Discipline." I have struck the bottom --

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 the beginning of that last sentence on that page through the
2 following page through "phone call." Other than that, it's
3 in. Are you objecting?

4 MS. BOSMAN: No, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 MS. BOSMAN: The preparation of it --

7 THE COURT: And then everything from page 22
8 through 23.

9 MS. BOSMAN: That's all out.

10 THE COURT: Through 24, the bottom, beginning with
11 "conclusions," all of that is out already.

12 MS. BOSMAN: Okay. The bottom of page 24 under
13 conclusions.

14 MR. WAGNER: Your Honor, we did have the one
15 sentence on 22, correct? "The NOD was officially issued to
16 the grievant on June 1, 2010, with the union present," just
17 for clarity.

18 THE COURT: Yes.

19 MR. WAGNER: Okay, thank you.

20 MS. BOSMAN: On page -- I'm on to page 25 now of
21 53, we believe that those last two paragraphs regarding
22 proof beyond a reasonable doubt, proof by a preponderance of
23 the evidence and proof by clear and convincing evidence
24 should remain in, as well as the following paragraph that
25 says the most rigorous standard of proof, beyond a

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 reasonable doubt, applied in criminal prosecutions should
2 remain in.

3 THE COURT: Overruled.

4 MS. BOSMAN: On page 26 of 53, I understand that
5 is all out.

6 THE COURT: Everything from now, page 26, through
7 page 37 is all out.

8 MR. WAGNER: Except for the clear and convincing
9 evidence sentence on 26, correct, your Honor?

10 THE COURT: That's right.

11 MS. BOSMAN: The sentence that begins -- oh,
12 okay. Then on to page 28 of 53, which I understand is out,
13 page 29, the heading that says the timing of the Notice of
14 Discipline should go out.

15 THE COURT: I've already ruled it's out. You have
16 about three minutes, so finish up. Everything is currently
17 out through page 38.

18 MS. BOSMAN: Right. I would ask, your Honor --
19 I'll just go right to 53, which is the next page I've
20 marked. I would submit that the very last two paragraphs --

21 THE COURT: You're on page 53?

22 MS. BOSMAN: Correct. Those last two paragraphs
23 should go out.

24 THE COURT: Overruled.

25 MS. BOSMAN: Thank you, your Honor.

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 THE COURT: All right. Let me say as this
2 document currently stands with these redactions, I think it
3 is a fair portrayal of those portions of the decision that I
4 admitted during the trial and for the purposes for which it
5 was admitted. Principally, that was to foreclose
6 tangential -- mini trials on tangential issues that I found
7 had been adequately resolved according to the standards of
8 due process by the arbitrator during his decision. From the
9 plaintiff's perspective, and directing this at the
10 defendant, which is all irrelevant at this point, I'm at the
11 point where I'm gonna charge the jury and it has no impact
12 on your argument, I fully intend to tell the jury that
13 Mr. Maroney's decision -- I address this decision in my
14 charge -- is no substitute on the issue of credibility. In
15 other words, part of the redactions that we've just done
16 here, in the main, have to do with credibility findings, not
17 as to the incidences, as to those I've said they're fixed
18 and there's preclusion on those issues, we weren't gonna
19 conduct mini trials on those issues. But that having been
20 said, it's the jury's province to make decisions regarding
21 credibility and I make that clear to them in my
22 instructions.

23 All right, anything further on this issue?

24 MS. BOSMAN: Could I just note for the record that
25 all of the matters that are referenced in Mr. Maroney's

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 decision were heard at the last trial before Judge McAvoy by
2 that jury.

3 THE COURT: And in the main, those events have
4 been heard by this jury. I simply said we weren't gonna
5 conduct mini trials on those.

6 MS. BOSMAN: I understand, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: All right. All right, is there
8 anything about the charge the parties want to address?

9 MR. WAGNER: You were gonna talk to us about the
10 issue of --

11 THE COURT: The NOD. I make clear -- I understand
12 that the retaliatory conduct for which the jury is being
13 asked to decide damages has to do with the allegations of
14 discrimination and retaliation that were filed by Mr. Miller
15 and have nothing to do with the initiation of the lawsuit.
16 That's the gist of the instruction you've asked for in that
17 regard.

18 MR. WAGNER: Correct.

19 THE COURT: I think I make that clear in my jury
20 charge. I preface my jury charge with a discussion of the
21 liability issues that the jury has to accept.

22 MR. WAGNER: My only concern, your Honor, is that
23 while you do do that in the positive, you don't do it in the
24 negative, in the sense of saying it's fixed, you need not
25 concern --

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 THE COURT: Tell me what your concern is.

2 MR. WAGNER: The plaintiff created, at multiple
3 junctures in this trial, the perception from which an
4 inference could be drawn that the prior retaliation finding
5 was clearly this coincidence in time of a May 20th filing in
6 federal court and a June 1 NOD. A logical layperson, not
7 knowing all the facts, might say, well, that's got to be it,
8 and she went down the road on a couple occasions.

9 THE COURT: I don't understand what it is you're
10 telling us. What is your concern?

11 MR. WAGNER: That's already been thrown out.
12 That's not the fixed retaliation verdict. The fixed
13 retaliation verdict is a finding there was some diffuse
14 retaliation based on Human Rights complaints, not based on
15 the lawsuit. So maybe it's taken care of by simply saying
16 the fixed retaliation verdict is based on him engaging in
17 protected activity, that being the Human Rights complaint,
18 and not the filing of the lawsuit.

19 THE COURT: Maybe I'll add that sentence.

20 MR. WAGNER: I think that actually takes --

21 THE COURT: I see your point. I say that, I tell
22 'em that in the jury instructions.

23 MR. WAGNER: Yeah.

24 THE COURT: You may not have a problem once you've
25 heard it, but we'll see.

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 MR. WAGNER: Yeah. And obviously, we're in a very
2 unique and difficult posture here, never seen anything like
3 it, so I'm trying to kind of work my way through it
4 intellectually just as the Court has been doing.

5 THE COURT: Let me say for the record in light of
6 the requests from the plaintiff yesterday, this is just more
7 of the same, Miss Bosman, and I had promised you earlier in
8 the trial to make a record of the following observations and
9 I intend to, but I've not wanted to divert anybody's
10 attention away from their job to represent their clients in
11 their best interest.

12 Yesterday, during the charge conference, when I
13 directed the parties to focus on the issue of proximate
14 cause, you told me that you had made a request to charge in
15 that regard and you were renewing that request.

16 MS. BOSMAN: Yes, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Right. I went back and looked at your
18 requests to charge. There is about a two-word sentence
19 dealing with proximate cause in your request to charge. In
20 other words, it was disingenuous, ya did not make such a
21 request. I went back, I have supplemented proximate cause,
22 making sure that it's a balanced presentation.

23 MS. MIZEL: Your Honor, if I just may be heard on
24 the suggestion that Miss Bosman made yesterday, that
25 proximate cause can be more than one cause.

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 MS. MIZEL: It's my understanding, aside from the
 3 fact that I don't believe Miss Bosman gave any citation
 4 other than Judge McAvoy's instruction, so I was left with
 5 nothing to look at, that was a much more complicated case
 6 than this one, just two incidences which have allegedly
 7 caused damage to the plaintiff, and it's my understanding
 8 that the kind of instruction that would require, you know,
 9 multiple potential proximate causes would usually be
 10 involving, you know, tort cases, superseding and intervening
 11 causes, foreseeability, unforeseeability, and I think it
 12 would unnecessarily confuse the jury. I think what your
 13 Honor did yesterday seemed -- certainly seemed reasonable to
 14 us, so I just wanted to put that on the record, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: I have no doubt what I did yesterday
 16 did seem reasonable to you, but I've now balanced it with
 17 multiple -- but when you listen to it -- in other words,
 18 what I've said to the parties is this: We're at a point,
 19 given the procedural posture, where we've beat these as much
 20 as we can beat 'em and we still have to move on. So we're
 21 gonna do this exactly like it's intended under the law.
 22 I'll go ahead and give it, I'll then request whether there
 23 are objections or additions that either party seeks. If the
 24 answer to that is "yes," I'll do what I did the first time
 25 around, I'll send 'em out with an instruction not to begin

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 their deliberations, I'll hear the parties, I'll rule on it
2 and I will or will not then supplement the instruction.

3 That's the best I can tell ya. Okay.

4 MR. WAGNER: One more issue, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: I know we have a remaining issue on
6 the redaction.

7 MR. WAGNER: Got it.

8 THE COURT: Just not gonna be able to reach it at
9 this point.

10 MR. WAGNER: Got it.

11 THE COURT: We will reach it before it's submitted
12 to the jury.

13 MR. WAGNER: Absolutely, your Honor. Would you
14 like Ellie then, who did the redactions per your order this
15 morning, to e-mail that to John so it can be printed out for
16 the jury?

17 THE COURT: That's fine.

18 MS. BOSMAN: Your Honor, my records show we filed
19 that on January 20th.

20 THE COURT: I have your filing. What I'm saying
21 is go back and read it at some point. Doesn't say what you
22 said.

23 MS. BOSMAN: The attachment, I have it on the
24 computer.

25 THE COURT: I'm not gonna sit here and debate with

Miller v. City of Ithaca, et al. - 10-CV-597

1 you with more of the same, Miss Bosman. I've got it, I got
2 it right here on the bench what ya submitted.

3 MS. BOSMAN: And that doesn't have that
4 language --

5 THE COURT: No, it does not.

6 MS. BOSMAN: -- from Judge McAvoy's?

7 THE COURT: No, Miss Bosman, it does not. I'll be
8 back on the bench in a minute.

9 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, your Honor.

10 (Short recess taken at 9:00 AM.)

11 (Court reconvened at 9:03 AM.)

12 (Jury present.)

13 THE COURT: Good morning, folks. As I told you
14 earlier, this phase of the trial deals with damages and the
15 evidence you have heard regarding that subject. Before I
16 begin, I want to remind you of the liability conclusions
17 that have already been reached that you must accept as you
18 consider damages.

19 First of all, and as you know, since that was the
20 subject of your earlier verdict, you have already decided
21 that under the federal employment and State Human Rights
22 laws, Mr. Miller has proven by a preponderance of the
23 evidence that the 2009 beat assignment changes were material
24 adverse actions by the City of Ithaca and his complaints of
25 discrimination and retaliation made to the Human Rights

Court's Charge

1 Division were a critical element in the City's decision to
 2 take that action.

3 When we began this phase of the trial, I told you
 4 that for reasons that need not concern you, and that remains
 5 as true now as it was then, you must accept the conclusion
 6 that under the same federal and state laws, Mr. Miller has
 7 proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the June 1,
 8 2010, Notice of Discipline was a material adverse action by
 9 the City of Ithaca and by Edward Valley, John Barber and
 10 Pete Tyler, and that Mr. Miller's discrimination and
 11 retaliation complaints made to the Human Rights Division
 12 were a substantial element in the City's and individual
 13 defendants' decision to take that action.

14 Therefore, since Mr. Miller has sustained his
 15 burden of proving those two claims, you must now decide what
 16 amount of compensatory damages, if any, he has proved by a
 17 preponderance of the evidence that he is entitled to on each
 18 claim and as to each defendant.

19 You must consider the issue of damages separately
 20 as to the City on each of the two claims and separately as
 21 to each individual defendant on the second claim. Bearing
 22 in mind my prior instructions, all of which apply to this
 23 phase of your deliberations and which, as you'll recall,
 24 include important directions regarding your consideration of
 25 the evidence and the deliberative process, you are now to

Court's Charge

1 consider what, if any, damages you should award on each of
2 Mr. Miller's claims of retaliation as I have just described
3 them. In addition to my prior instructions, there are a few
4 matters that I need to specifically address as they relate
5 to this phase of the trial.

6 I permitted Dr. Lynch to testify as an expert and
7 to express his opinions about matters that are at issue.
8 Other medical evidence was submitted through treatment
9 providers and they were not called as experts. A witness
10 such as Dr. Lynch may be permitted to testify to an opinion
11 on those matters about which he has special knowledge,
12 skill, experience and training. Such testimony is presented
13 to you on the theory that someone who is experienced and
14 knowledgeable in the field can assist you in understanding
15 the evidence or in reaching an independent decision on the
16 facts. In weighing this opinion testimony, you may consider
17 the witness' qualifications, his opinions, the reasons for
18 testifying, as well as all of the other considerations that
19 ordinarily apply when you are deciding whether or not to
20 believe a witness' testimony. You may give the opinion
21 testimony whatever weight, if any, you find it deserves in
22 light of all of the evidence in this case.

23 You should not, however, accept opinion testimony
24 merely because I allowed the witness to testify concerning
25 his opinion, nor should you substitute it for your own

Court's Charge

1 reason, judgment and common sense. The determination of the
2 facts in this case rests squarely with you.

3 As you will remember, I admitted some evidence
4 only for limited purposes. You must consider all such
5 evidence only for the reasons I allowed it and for no other.
6 In this regard, the limited purpose for which evidence has
7 been offered, I want to comment on Thomas Maroney's
8 February 27, 2013, arbitration decision, which I have
9 admitted in a redacted form as Defendant's Exhibit 49.

10 In its original form, Mr. Maroney's decision is a
11 53-page document discussing numerous facts and issues that I
12 have deemed inadmissible for purposes of this trial.
13 However, I have also concluded that, among other factors,
14 given the breadth and scope of that hearing, the right of
15 everyone to be heard and the fact that all parties were
16 represented by counsel, certain events relevant to this
17 trial have been established in that proceeding. It is
18 important for you to understand, however, that what you
19 are now deciding is not the ultimate issue decided by
20 Mr. Maroney, and the redacted decision may be used only for
21 the limited purposes that I permitted during the trial. It
22 may be generally said that, in part, those purposes had to
23 do with whether certain underlying events occurred. I also
24 admitted evidence of the events for your consideration on
25 issues of credibility. I want to make it abundantly clear,

Court's Charge

1 however, just as I did in my original instructions, that all
 2 issues of credibility are exclusively yours to make, just as
 3 the facts relative to your consideration of damages are
 4 within your exclusive province to find. Issues of
 5 credibility and those facts you find relevant and
 6 persuasive, given the decision you must make, do not belong
 7 to me, do not belong to the lawyers and they do not belong
 8 to Mr. Maroney.

9 One last comment on Mr. Maroney's decision is
 10 warranted. You should accept the fact that Mr. Miller's
 11 employment was legally terminated as of February 28, 2013.
 12 I remind you that it was the June 1, 2010, Notice of
 13 Discipline that you must accept as the material adverse
 14 action supporting Mr. Miller's second claim. The extent to
 15 which, if any, that Mr. Miller's lawful 2013 discharge has a
 16 bearing on your decision regarding damages is entirely up to
 17 you, as is the weight and effect of all evidence.

18 One last thing before I turn to the subject of
 19 damages. I want to remind you about what I have already
 20 told you about the subject of trial fluff. My interaction
 21 with the lawyers has absolutely no bearing on the decision
 22 you're being asked to make. Mr. Miller, Mr. Valleyly,
 23 Mr. Barber, Mr. Tyler and the City of Ithaca have every
 24 expectation that you will impartially consider the evidence
 25 and reach an impartial verdict based upon the burden of

Court's Charge

1 proof and the relevant evidence and that you will not be
 2 diverted by my exchanges with counsel.

3 I now turn to damages, again reminding you that
 4 you must consider damages as to each defendant individually.

5 The fact that I am instructing you on compensatory
 6 damages does not suggest that I have any view on whether
 7 compensatory damages would be fair or have been proven in
 8 this case. The question of whether compensatory damages are
 9 proven and, if so, what amount would fairly compensate
 10 Mr. Miller is solely up to you. So, too, Mr. Miller's
 11 attorney has suggested some amount. Again, that is not her
 12 province, that is yours.

13 As I said, Mr. Miller has the burden of proving
 14 his damages by a preponderance of the evidence. The purpose
 15 of the law of damages is to award, as far as possible, just
 16 and fair compensation for the loss, if any, which resulted
 17 from the violation of Mr. Miller's rights by the defendants.
 18 You must award Mr. Miller sufficient damages to compensate
 19 him for any injury proximately caused by the defendants'
 20 conduct. These are known as compensatory damages.

21 Compensatory damages seek to make the plaintiff
 22 whole; that is, to compensate him for the damage suffered.
 23 A prevailing plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages
 24 for emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, mental
 25 anguish, loss of enjoyment of life, injury to professional

Court's Charge

1 standing, injury to character and reputation and to other
2 non-pecuniary loss that he has suffered because of the
3 defendants' unlawful conduct.

4 Under the circumstances of this case, Mr. Miller
5 is not entitled to receive any back pay, front pay or any
6 other economic damages resulting from these claims because
7 he suffered no such loss. You may award him damages only
8 for such emotional distress as he can prove resulted from
9 the distinct instances of retaliation by the defendants
10 related to the beat assignments in 2009 and the issuance of
11 the June 1, 2010, Notice of Discipline. You may not award
12 damages related to his 2013 termination because that
13 termination was lawful by virtue of the arbitrator's
14 decision, and you may not award damages based on emotional
15 harm suffered by Mr. Miller's wife or children, although you
16 may consider the evidence regarding his wife and children,
17 to the extent it shows an impact on him. The choice to
18 consider any evidence for any purpose is always your
19 exclusive province.

20 As I told you a moment ago, you may award
21 compensatory damages only for injuries that Mr. Miller
22 proves were proximately caused by the wrongful conduct of
23 the defendant you are considering. An injury is proximately
24 caused by a defendant's wrongful conduct if the conduct
25 actually caused the injury or was a substantial factor in

Court's Charge

1 bringing about that injury, and if the injury was a
2 reasonably foreseeable consequence of the defendant's
3 conduct. This does not mean that the law recognizes only
4 one proximate cause of an injury or damage, consisting of
5 only one factor or thing or the conduct of only one person.
6 To the contrary, many factors or things or the conduct of
7 two or more persons may operate at the same time, either
8 independently or together, to cause injury or damage and
9 each may be a proximate cause, as long as those things
10 constituted a part of the defendant's wrongful conduct and
11 were substantial factors in bringing about the injury or
12 damage. However, to be a proximate cause, there must not be
13 any other cause that interrupted or succeeded the alleged
14 wrongful conduct of the defendants. Thus, if Mr. Miller
15 suffered emotional distress because of other events in his
16 life, or because of his own conduct, unrelated to the
17 defendants' retaliatory beat assignment changes or the
18 Notice of Discipline, this distress was not proximately
19 caused by the defendants and they're not responsible for
20 paying damages for any such distress.

21 On the other hand, if Mr. Miller has proved to
22 your satisfaction by a preponderance of the evidence that
23 such damages were proximately caused by the defendants'
24 retaliatory conduct, then you should award him compensatory
25 damages that are fair and reasonable, neither inadequate nor

Court's Charge

1 excessive. You should not award compensatory damages for
 2 speculative injuries, but only for those injuries that
 3 Mr. Miller has actually suffered or which he is reasonably
 4 likely to suffer in the near future.

5 In awarding compensatory damages, if you decide to
 6 award them, you must be guided by dispassionate common
 7 sense. Computing damages may be difficult, but you must not
 8 let that difficulty lead you to engage in arbitrary
 9 guesswork. On the other hand, the law does not require any
 10 plaintiff to prove the amount of his losses with
 11 mathematical precision, but only with as much definiteness
 12 and accuracy as the circumstances permit.

13 In all instances, you are to use sound discretion
 14 in fixing an award of damages, drawing reasonable inferences
 15 where you deem appropriate from the facts and circumstances,
 16 given your evaluation of all of the evidence in this case.
 17 You should not award compensatory damages more than once for
 18 the same injury. By way of example only, if a plaintiff
 19 were to prevail on two claims and establish a \$1 injury, you
 20 could not award him \$1 compensatory damages on each claim,
 21 he's only entitled to be made whole again, not to recover
 22 more than he lost. Of course, if different injuries are
 23 attributable to the separate claims, then you must
 24 compensate him fully for all of his injuries.

25 If you find, after considering all the evidence

Court's Charge

1 presented, that Mr. Miller suffered no injury as a result of
 2 the defendants' conduct, you must award him nominal damages
 3 of \$1. Nominal damages are awarded in recognition that
 4 Mr. Miller's rights have been violated. You will award
 5 nominal damages if you conclude that the only injury
 6 Mr. Miller proved he suffered was the deprivation of his
 7 rights without any resulting compensatory damages. You must
 8 also award nominal damages if, upon finding that some injury
 9 resulted from a given unlawful act, you find you are unable
 10 to compute monetary damages except by engaging in pure
 11 speculation and guessing. You may not award both nominal
 12 and compensatory damages to Mr. Miller. Either he was
 13 measurably injured, in which case you must award
 14 compensatory damages, or else he was not, in which case you
 15 must award nominal damages of \$1.

16 One last comment of damages in light of
 17 Miss Bosman's summation yesterday afternoon. Naturally, you
 18 should consider the arguments of both counsel to the extent
 19 you find them helpful in the evaluation of the evidence you
 20 have heard and the conclusion on damages you must make.
 21 However, she appeared to argue that a part of your damage
 22 assessment should include, and I'm paraphrasing, that you
 23 send a message to the Ithaca Police Department and all
 24 police departments in New York that they cannot trample on a
 25 citizen's Human Rights. To the extent I've characterized

Court's Charge

1 that portion of her argument accurately, you must totally
2 disregard that argument as you decide the damages issue
3 before you. Such an argument is addressed to passion and a
4 desire to punish, the subjects of what are typically
5 referred to as punitive damages. Punitive damages have no
6 bearing on the issues in this case whatsoever and you must
7 disregard any such thoughts or arguments.

8 Just as with the first part of this trial, verdict
9 forms have been prepared for you. Once you've reached a
10 unanimous verdict, your foreperson should fill in the
11 verdict form, date and sign it and inform the marshal that a
12 verdict has been reached. Again, if you have any questions
13 during your deliberations, your foreperson should put them
14 in writing, pass 'em to the marshals and we'll respond as
15 quickly as we can.

16 Are there any objections or additions to the
17 instructions, plaintiff? The answer to that is "yes" or
18 "no."

19 MS. BOSMAN: No, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: All right. Defendants.

21 MR. WAGNER: No, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen,
23 you're free to retire to your deliberations. Before you go,
24 we will swear the marshal; I'm not sure it's necessary, but
25 we're gonna do it.

Deliberations

1 (Marshal duly sworn.)

2 THE COURT: You're free to go, folks.

3 (Jury excused to commence deliberations

4 at 9:22 AM.)

5 THE COURT: Let's take up, if we will, the
6 separate issue of the admissibility of Exhibit D-34.

7 MR. WAGNER: Yes, your Honor. And you received
8 our redactions on that, your Honor?

9 THE COURT: I did.

10 MR. WAGNER: Thank you.

11 THE COURT: Miss Bosman, please.

12 MS. BOSMAN: Your Honor, on page -- I'm
13 referencing the bottom designation. Page 1 of 39.

14 THE COURT: Yes.

15 MS. BOSMAN: We believe that all of A and B at the
16 bottom of the first page should go out, a determination and
17 order after investigation to pages dated and the final
18 investigation report and basis of determination pages to
19 conclusion.

20 With respect to --

21 THE COURT: Well, as I understand the offer,
22 Miss Bosman -- I understand what the nature of the objection
23 was you interposed at the time, and that was that it got
24 into issues involving the Human Rights complaints, and --
25 but the purpose of the offer as I understood it was to

Deliberations

1 establish those things upon which Dr. Lynch relied in
 2 rendering his opinion. In other words, it was a recitation
 3 of the materials submitted to him, and it was only for that
 4 purpose that I permitted it. In my view -- I understand why
 5 you focus on those two things, but in my view they don't do
 6 anything to share with the jury the substance of any of
 7 those complaints and certainly the primary thrust of your
 8 case is is that your client was retaliated against as a
 9 result of those complaints. So to say -- to leave in there
 10 that he reviewed those complaints is not the same thing as
 11 divulging the details of those complaints that he reviewed.
 12 So I'm satisfied that those things should remain in there
 13 because I don't think they impinge on the basis of your
 14 objection. Go ahead. Next issue.

15 MS. BOSMAN: We have the same objection with
 16 respect to page 8 of 39, A and B. We believe that the final
 17 conclusions of the Human Rights Commission is prejudicial
 18 and not admissible before the jury.

19 THE COURT: I agree that on page 8, under sub 8 --

20 MR. WAGNER: Sub A.

21 THE COURT: -- 1(a), "the complaint is dismissed
 22 and the file is closed" should be redacted, I agree with
 23 that, Miss Bosman.

24 MR. WAGNER: Yeah, and sorry for that oversight,
 25 we meant -- the part that was redacted sort of repeats that,

Deliberations

1 so we would agree with that, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 MS. BOSMAN: But not the conclusion recommending
4 finding of no probable cause, correct?

5 THE COURT: Where are you now?

6 MS. BOSMAN: One subsection --

7 THE COURT: That's out.

8 MS. BOSMAN: Page 9 of 39, subsection K, that's
9 out, okay.

10 On page 15, under 19, they have proposed a
11 redaction of "the records indicate a starting date was," so
12 on, so forth. I don't believe that that should go out. I
13 believe it should go ahead and stay in.

14 THE COURT: Given the purposes for which I've
15 admitted the exhibit, subject to redaction, your objection
16 is overruled.

17 MS. BOSMAN: With respect to page 17 of 39, the
18 memorandums that are reflected are all out, as I understand
19 it, down to "in a letter to Mr. Miller on 10/20/2000," we
20 consent to that.

21 THE COURT: Please focus on those things you
22 object to.

23 MS. BOSMAN: Under page 19 --

24 THE COURT: The entire page is out.

25 MS. BOSMAN: That's already out.

Deliberations

1 (Pause in proceedings.)

2 MS. BOSMAN: On page 22, where it talks about the
3 e-mail to Jerry Feist regarding an IME report of 8/2/11,
4 where he states to the psychologist "physical disability is
5 the only thing I can have, I can never go back to my career
6 as a cop." I don't believe that that exhibit had come in so
7 I would object to that language, that one sentence.

8 THE COURT: Overruled.

9 MS. BOSMAN: With respect to page 23 --

10 THE COURT: It's not a matter of whether the
11 exhibit came in, it's a matter of what did Dr. Lynch rely on
12 in rendering his opinion. That's the purpose for which it
13 was offered.

14 MS. BOSMAN: Page 24, we would request that the
15 reference to the April 9, 1997, letter from the Vinton
16 Police Department terminating him, that paragraph should go
17 out.

18 THE COURT: Overruled.

19 MS. BOSMAN: With respect to his leaving the job
20 following -- followed a vandalism incident, that should go
21 out.

22 THE COURT: Overruled. I should note in that
23 regard there's ample evidence in the record to support both
24 of those recitations, but that having been said, that's
25 still not the purpose of the offer here. I presume, of

Deliberations

1 course, the jury will comply with my instructions that they
2 should consider this exhibit for the purposes for which it
3 was offered, if that issue even arises in their minds.

4 MS. BOSMAN: On page 26, we want to have in the --
5 Mr. Miller had an MVA on May 7, 2008 -- so that's out, we
6 want it in.

7 THE COURT: I'm sorry, I have the redacted version
8 in front of me, the blackened version.

9 MS. BOSMAN: It says Mr. Miller had an MVA on
10 May 7, 2008, he states he was wearing a seat belt but was
11 issued a ticket for not wearing a seat belt. He states he
12 was found not guilty of the offenses he was ticketed for,
13 and then the last paragraph as well, which states on
14 June 11, 2009, Mr. Miller was issued a traffic ticket which
15 he said they issued one for speeding, 52 miles per hour when
16 I was found going only 31 miles per hour as the driving data
17 showed. This involved the MVA of 2008, it is alleged he was
18 not wearing his seat belt. He states he had his doctor's
19 note relieving him of this responsibility.

20 THE COURT: Do the defendants object to putting
21 those two things back in?

22 MR. WAGNER: No, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Put 'em back in.

24 MS. BOSMAN: Page 32 is okay, 33 is out. And then
25 page 31 -- I'm sorry, page 37. At this point, your Honor, I

Deliberations

1 don't believe that it makes any difference.

2 So those are the only comments I have on that
3 exhibit.

4 THE COURT: All right. Consistent with my
5 rulings, if you would further redact the exhibit and then
6 provide it to Mr. Law, we'll print it and provide it to the
7 jury.

8 MR. WAGNER: So unredact the two that we didn't
9 object to and redact the one that you ordered.

10 THE COURT: Exactly.

11 MR. WAGNER: We'll do so, your Honor. Your Honor,
12 there's also these e-mail exhibits that we had proposed
13 redactions to, Plaintiff's Exhibits 27, 29, 30, 31, and 48,
14 we had proposed redactions early yesterday, we gave 'em to
15 plaintiff's counsel with orange highlights of --

16 THE COURT: Have you had a chance to review those?

17 MS. BOSMAN: I'm prepared, your Honor, yes.

18 THE COURT: Do you have objections to the
19 redactions they have made?

20 MS. BOSMAN: Yes.

21 THE COURT: All right. I'm not prepared to
22 proceed, I don't know whether I have those in front of me or
23 don't. I'm not tellin' ya they weren't sent, not tellin' ya
24 I didn't receive 'em. I didn't look at 'em yet.

25 MR. WAGNER: So we have them highlighted in orange

Deliberations

1 of what we think should be redacted. Probably the most
2 efficient thing to do, which would leave us without a copy,
3 is to hand 'em to your Honor, have Miss Bosman make any
4 objections and then --

5 MS. McCLOSKEY: We have two copies.

6 MR. WAGNER: Oh, we do?

7 THE COURT: Yes. Somebody give me a copy so I can
8 look at 'em before we have any discussion regarding them
9 whatsoever, which means I'm leaving the bench to do that,
10 but before they're submitted to the jury we'll need to
11 resolve these, but I can't make intelligent decisions
12 without looking at them.

13 MR. WAGNER: Okay. We are gonna hand you the
14 highlighted one and the blacked out one consistent with our
15 practice on the other issues, and we do have a blacked out
16 separate copy that we can follow along.

17 THE COURT: All right. I'll let ya know when I'm
18 done.

19 MS. BOSMAN: Your Honor?

20 THE COURT: Yes.

21 MS. BOSMAN: For the record, we did locate the
22 proposed jury charges including the language I quoted
23 yesterday, it is docket number 657 --

24 THE COURT: Filed two days ago.

25 MS. BOSMAN: Correct.

Deliberations

1 THE COURT: Right. I was talking about your
2 initial pretrial submissions of requests to charge on the
3 issue of proximate cause. That's what I'm talkin' about.

4 MS. BOSMAN: Okay. But that was where I quoted
5 the language from yesterday.

6 THE COURT: No, I know ya did.

7 MS. BOSMAN: Okay.

11 (Short recess taken at 9:34 AM.)

12 (Court reconvened at 9:46 AM.)

13 THE COURT: All right, I've reviewed the exhibits
14 that have been submitted to me. I begin with P-27.

15 The defendants propose the redaction of the --
16 one-third of the page, after Vallely, beginning with the
17 word "could," ending with the word "thank you, Chris." I
18 reject that redaction except for the -- I reject a portion
19 of that redaction as follows: I will permit the first
20 sentence after Vallely to stand, "could you please look into
21 the fact that Andy Navarro posted my retaliation claim on
22 the bulletin board in the patrol room in front of most of
23 two shifts," and then would redact the remainder of that
24 paragraph.

25 MR. WAGNER: So starting with "on 7/23," all the

Deliberations

1 way down to the bottom.

2 THE COURT: Exactly.

3 MR. WAGNER: Got it, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: To "retaliation." I would leave
5 "thank you, Chris."

6 MR. WAGNER: Yep.

7 THE COURT: Objections, plaintiff.

8 MS. BOSMAN: Yes, your Honor. We would object to
9 anything on that paragraph being redacted except that
10 portion beginning "on 7/23, at approximately 6:00 PM,
11 Navarro also made crude sexual comments." We would consent
12 to that.

13 THE COURT: I understand you would consent, but
14 your objection is overruled. That is precisely why I
15 required redaction. The remainder of that paragraph delves
16 into matters I deemed inadmissible.

17 Plaintiff's 29, the proposed redaction is from the
18 beginning, "Vallely," through the end, "thank you, Chris."
19 Does the plaintiff object to that redaction?

20 MS. BOSMAN: Yes, your Honor. It's our position
21 it goes to state of mind of damages. We would consent with
22 the redaction up to the point where it says "I don't know if
23 anyone will speak about it."

24 THE COURT: The objection is overruled, the
25 redaction is authorized, again it relates to matters I held

Deliberations

1 inadmissible during the course of this trial. I'm not gonna
2 allow things to go in as an exhibit that I've ruled
3 inadmissible by way of testimony.

4 I'm now on Plaintiff's 30. Do the parties have
5 the two highlighted sentences that the proposed redaction
6 relates to? In other words, rather than me tryin' to
7 identify 'em, are you both on the same sheet of music as to
8 where the two proposals come?

9 MR. WAGNER: You mean in the first e-mail message,
10 your Honor?

11 THE COURT: Yes.

12 MR. WAGNER: Yeah, I've got -- Ellie's got the
13 unredacted on the computer and I've got the redacted in my
14 hand.

15 THE COURT: And Miss Bosman, you have the same
16 thing. In other words, I don't want to identify it.

17 MR. WAGNER: Correct.

18 THE COURT: The question is whether those two
19 sentences should go out that are highlighted on Plaintiff's
20 Exhibit 30, Miss Bosman.

21 MS. BOSMAN: Yes, your Honor, we'd object.

22 THE COURT: All right. The objection's overruled.
23 Same reason. It relates to matters I held inadmissible in
24 trial.

25 Plaintiff's 31 -- it's really the same two

Deliberations

1 sentences. I'm sustaining the defendants' view that those
 2 two sentences are subject to redaction based upon my trial
 3 order. As to Plaintiff's Exhibit 31, it's really a string
 4 e-mail that references the same two sentences that I just
 5 ruled inadmissible. I presume the plaintiff's objection is
 6 wishing them to remain as she did on the previous exhibit,
 7 my ruling is the same. Those redactions should occurred.

8 That takes us to what I presume is Plaintiff's
 9 Exhibit 48.

10 MR. WAGNER: Correct, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: All right. Again referencing the two
 12 highlighted portions that the City has highlighted seeking
 13 redaction based upon my trial rulings, Miss Bosman, your
 14 position?

15 MS. BOSMAN: I don't have 48. What is 48?

16 THE COURT: It's your exhibit. The highlighted
 17 portions relate to other officers lying on forms, Ithaca
 18 College Public Safety, Nelson --

19 MS. BOSMAN: We're lookin', I'm sorry, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: All right.

21 MS. BOSMAN: We would consent to the redaction of
 22 Nelson and Moore's name only, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Overruled. I concur, once again, the
 24 redaction proposed is consistent with my trial rulings.

25 MR. WAGNER: So, your Honor, the only one we need

Deliberations

1 to touch up was Number 27, we'll go ahead and modify the
2 redaction per your order, we'll give John that on a thumb
3 drive and, in the meantime, here are the redacted versions
4 of 29, 30, 31 and 48, which are in their original redacted
5 form which your Honor felt was appropriate.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 MS. BOSMAN: Your Honor, could I get clarification
8 on Exhibit 30? The paragraph on the second e-mail string at
9 the bottom, "hi, Chris," starts out "with respect to the
10 investigation, yes, I will remain in touch with IPD to
11 ensure the allegations are investigated promptly." We
12 request that stay in. I don't -- my copy indicates that it
13 was redacted.

14 THE COURT: Where are you?

15 MS. BOSMAN: P-30.

16 THE COURT: Yeah.

17 MS. BOSMAN: The second e-mail string.

18 THE COURT: Beginning with "hi, Chris."

19 MS. BOSMAN: Yes. The paragraph that's redacted
20 says "with respect to the investigation, yes, I will remain
21 in touch with IPD to ensure that the allegations are
22 investigated promptly." I believe the investigation
23 regarding the allegation and assertion of --

24 THE COURT: I don't show that as redacted.

25 MS. BOSMAN: Pardon?

Deliberations

1 THE COURT: I don't show that as redacted?

2 MS. BOSMAN: I do.

3 MR. WAGNER: We did on ours, your Honor
4 (indicating).

5 THE COURT: That's not what I had.

6 MR. WAGNER: It's not highlighted?

7 THE COURT: No. Let me see it.

8 MR. WAGNER: May I approach, your Honor?

9 THE COURT: You may.

10 MR. WAGNER: I apologize, I don't have the
11 highlighted, but you can compare them and see.

12 THE COURT: (Pause.) I concur with Miss Bosman,
13 that should remain.

14 MR. WAGNER: The whole paragraph, your Honor?

15 THE COURT: The whole paragraph.

16 MR. WAGNER: All right. So we'll fix 30 and 27
17 and submit -- resubmit those.

18 THE COURT: Anything further?

19 MS. BOSMAN: Could I just make a record, your
20 Honor, with respect to the language in the charge regarding
21 Mr. Miller's being legally terminated on June 1, 2013, (sic)
22 and the reference to the extent that the discharge was
23 lawful? We presume that the Court is relying on Judge
24 McAvoy's post- -- post-trial decision and we continue our
25 objection to a determination that the termination was

Deliberations

1 lawful. Our position is that it was based upon a
2 retaliatory Notice of Discipline.

3 THE COURT: What is it you want me to do about
4 that in light of the fact that now I have charged the jury
5 and you interposed no objections? What are you now
6 objecting to? Are you objecting to a charge
7 post-submission, post-deliberation, which you failed to
8 object to at the time?

9 MS. BOSMAN: Your Honor, I do not have a copy of
10 the charge. I --

11 THE COURT: Ya sat there and listened to it.

12 MS. BOSMAN: I did.

13 THE COURT: You understand how trials are
14 conducted.

15 MS. BOSMAN: I've never not been provided a charge
16 before, your Honor. I have never had this experience.

17 THE COURT: What I'm asking you is a very
18 straightforward question, which I don't want obfuscated with
19 some obfuscated answer. I have charged the jury, they are
20 now in their deliberations, you are now raising for the
21 first time a portion of that charge which you object to.
22 What is it you want me to do? What are you asking me to do
23 in light of your objection?

24 MS. BOSMAN: I am asking to preserve the record,
25 your Honor. I don't believe that there has been a

Deliberations

1 determination, except by Mr. Maroney, that Mr. Miller was
 2 legally terminated in 2013.

3 THE COURT: All right.

4 MS. BOSMAN: That's my objection. I understand
 5 that the Court has made a determination that it was based
 6 upon that.

7 THE COURT: That's not what I'm talking about.

8 What I'm talking about, and for purposes of the Circuit, I
 9 believe you've waived any objection in that regard by
 10 failing to object to that portion of the charge when you
 11 were asked whether ya had any objections to the charge. So
 12 from a process, a procedural standpoint, you cannot, in the
 13 midst of deliberations, revisit an issue that was instructed
 14 to the jury as a matter of law, and that's why I asked you
 15 what is it you want me to do. I presume you're not
 16 proposing I interrupt their deliberations, bring 'em back
 17 out and change an instruction I gave 'em that ya failed to
 18 object to when I asked you.

19 MS. BOSMAN: Well, then, I would ask that a
 20 clarifying instruction be provided regarding the term
 21 "legally terminated" and the term "to the extent that the
 22 discharge was lawful." As I understand it, the Court was
 23 relying upon the Maroney decision.

24 THE COURT: Overruled.

25 MR. WAGNER: We'll have those in a moment, your

Deliberations

1 Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 MR. WAGNER: Twenty-seven and 30, John
4 (indicating).

5 (Court recessed to await the verdict at
6 9:59 AM.)

7 (In open court with a note at 11:23 AM.)

8 THE COURT: We have a note, reads as follows.

9 Testimony from Mr. Miller when the comment, quote, Lotto,
10 was said. The two minutes before and after we would like to
11 hear.

12 Theresa has scoured the record with her search
13 capability. She has found the comment Lotto as expressed by
14 Mr. Miller. In essence, it's a page or two, a page per
15 minute, depending on how many objections have to be ruled
16 upon and excluded, so we've taken a few pages before and a
17 few pages after, we're prepared to read that to the jury. I
18 will then inquire of the jury whether that's what they're
19 seeking to hear and if it's anything further, they should
20 send us another note.

21 MR. WAGNER: The word was Lotto?

22 THE COURT: Lotto, L-O-T-T-O.

23 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Any objection in the way I propose to
25 proceed?

Deliberations

1 MR. WAGNER: None from the defense.

2 MS. BOSMAN: No, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: All right. Bring in the jury, John,
4 if you would.

5 (Jury present.)

6 THE COURT: I've received a note from your
7 foreperson that reads as follows: Testimony of Mr. Miller
8 when the comment, quote, Lotto, by him was said. The two
9 minutes before and after we would like to hear.

10 The record is not prepared in terms of timing,
11 minutes, but we know basically how many minutes a page there
12 is, so Theresa has located that comment and a few pages
13 before and a few pages after, she'll read that for you. If
14 that does not satisfy whatever it is you're looking for,
15 please send me out another note asking for an expansion as
16 specifically as you can.

17 Theresa, would you, please.

18 (Record read back.)

19 THE COURT: That concludes that testimony. As I
20 said, if there's any expansion you want, please let us know.

21 (Jury excused to continue deliberations
22 at 11:32 AM.)

23 THE COURT: Miss Bosman, would you remain, please.

24 MS. BOSMAN: Yes, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: No one else is obligated to be

Deliberations

1 present, anybody else may leave if they wish.

2 MR. WAGNER: Do you want me here or not?

3 THE COURT: I don't care. You're free to leave if
4 you wish.

5 MR. WAGNER: Am I free to stay?

6 THE COURT: You're free to stay if you wish.

7 MR. WAGNER: Thank you.

8 THE COURT: I begin, Miss Bosman, with three
9 general observations about my following remarks, which I
10 promised you I would provide you at an appropriate time.

11 Number one, this is the appropriate time because I
12 did not want to interfere with either attorneys' attention
13 to their case by dealing with collateral matters during
14 trial.

15 Two, if the Circuit's called upon to review the
16 record of these proceedings, they should understand the
17 environment within which my orders were issued and my
18 rulings were made.

19 And three, and most importantly, if a Judge is
20 having difficulty with an attorney, it's my view the Judge
21 should directly confront the attorney with those
22 difficulties and give them an opportunity to respond, if
23 they care to. Too many judges do not do that.

24 With those observations in mind, let me share with
25 you the following observations:

***THERESA J. CASAL, RPR, CRR
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT - NDNY***

Deliberations

1 This is the first time you have appeared before
 2 me. It's my view you are an intelligent and capable trial
 3 attorney; you fully understand the issues, you fully
 4 understand my orders and you fully understand my rulings.
 5 In your opening statement, in your closing argument and when
 6 called upon to articulate or comply with foundational
 7 requirements of some evidentiary rule, you have demonstrated
 8 admirable ability to advocate on behalf of your client. In
 9 this context, I make the following observations:

10 When I have issued orders and made rulings, you
 11 have frequently feigned a lack of clarity or
 12 misunderstanding and sought to forge forward with whatever
 13 you wanted to do, regardless of those orders and rulings. I
 14 pointed out an example of that on the record this week when
 15 you continually objected to the admissibility of evidence I
 16 ruled inadmissible. You first told me that I misunderstood
 17 the nature of your objection, citing compound questions as
 18 the rationale for those prior objections and then you
 19 promptly proceeded to do exactly what I told you you were
 20 doing as the examination proceeded. The record, of course,
 21 will speak for itself in that regard.

22 As another example, you caused significant delays
 23 in this trial by failing to abide by my orders regarding
 24 designation of prior testimony and soliciting evidentiary
 25 rulings about the issues that arose. During various

Deliberations

1 discussions of legal matters, you intentionally obfuscated
 2 the issues, you failed to respond to direct inquiries and
 3 intentionally sought to divert the Court's attention with a
 4 view toward pressing forward with your own views about what
 5 is legally permissible in this case.

6 I have serious questions, although I'm not making
 7 any factual finding, about whether you intentionally
 8 attached two pages of documents concerning matters I ruled
 9 inadmissible to an exhibit offered during a first trial and
 10 attempted to circumvent my ruling on admissibility.

11 I have serious questions about your penchant of
 12 continuing pressing legal issues that I have resolved
 13 adversely to you. In essence, I have serious questions
 14 about your behavior during these proceedings.

15 In the end, Miss Bosman, I am not the only judge
 16 in the district who has seen this behavior. You asked me
 17 what I was talking about when this issue first arose, you
 18 asked me what I was talking about, and I told you I would
 19 tell you at an appropriate time. This is an appropriate
 20 time.

21 The underlying record of the first trial before
 22 Judge McAvoy reflects that he had the same issues, and it
 23 served as the basis for his recusal on this retrial. He
 24 didn't want to deal with it and you again. The case
 25 returned to the wheel and was spun three times, with two

Deliberations

1 intervening recusals by other judges for similar reasons
2 before it landed on my doorstep.

3 Let me assure you, Mr. Miller, since you're
4 present for this dissertation, that nothing that I have just
5 said has had any impact on what I believe were my best
6 efforts to be fair and reasonable in my resolution of the
7 issues that have arisen during these proceedings. In other
8 words, these observations, especially given my jury
9 instructions, have had no adverse effect on you and your
10 case whatsoever.

11 Finally, Miss Bosman, I'm not proposing to do
12 anything at this juncture other than to directly tell you
13 what I believe about my observations and about your behavior
14 and the fact that it's unacceptable. I don't expect to ever
15 see these things again during any appearance before me. You
16 are now on notice.

17 You may respond if you care to, though by no means
18 are you obligated to.

19 MS. BOSMAN: May I respond in writing, your Honor?

20 THE COURT: You may.

21 MS. BOSMAN: Thank you.

22 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

23 MR. WAGNER: Thank you.

24 (Court recessed to await the verdict at
25 11:38 AM.)

Verdict

1 (Court reconvened at 2:13 PM.)

2 THE COURT: We have a verdict. Go ahead, John,
3 bring the jury out.

4 (Jury present.)

5 THE COURT: Be seated, please, folks. Ladies and
6 gentlemen, I have a verdict form presented by your
7 foreperson that reads as follows:

8 As to the 2009 beat assignments, what amount of
9 damages do you award with respect to the City of Ithaca on
10 Mr. Miller's retaliation claim for those assignments?
11 \$220,000.

12 On the issuance of the June 1, 2010, Notice of
13 Discipline, same question, with respect to damages in
14 connection with that, City of Ithaca, \$220,000; Edward
15 Valley, \$30,000; John Barber, \$10,000; Pete Tyler, \$1.
16 Total damages on the June 1 claim, \$260,001.

17 Is that your verdict, so say you all?

18 (All respond affirmatively.)

19 THE COURT: Anyone wishing the jury polled?

20 MR. WAGNER: Your Honor, just with respect to the
21 division between beats and the NOD.

22 THE COURT: All I intend to do is ask each one of
23 'em is -- I'm not talking about questioning the jury, I'm
24 talking about polling.

25 MR. WAGNER: No, your Honor.

Verdict

1 THE COURT: All right. Miss Bosman.

2 MS. BOSMAN: Could you reread that again, your
3 Honor, please?

4 THE COURT: You have a copy of the verdict form?

5 MS. BOSMAN: Yes, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: The answer to the first question is
7 \$220,000.

8 MS. BOSMAN: Yes, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: As to the second question, second
10 claim, City of Ithaca, 220,000; Edward Valley 30,000; John
11 Barber, 10,000; Pete Tyler, \$1. Total damages on the second
12 claim, \$260,001. Do you wish the jury polled?

13 MS. BOSMAN: No, thank you, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, that
15 concludes your service with the appreciation of the Court
16 and parties. I know it's been a strenuous two weeks. Any
17 of you, you're free to gather your things and free to go.
18 If you want to stay a few minutes, I'm happy to come back
19 and talk to you, but that's up to each of you whether you do
20 or don't. But I'll be back there for any of you that
21 remain. All right. Thank you.

22 (Jury excused.)

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 (Court adjourned at 2:17 PM.)

25 - - - - -

1

2 CERTIFICATION OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

3

4

5 I, THERESA J. CASAL, RPR, CRR, CSR, Official
6 Realtime Court Reporter, in and for the United States
7 District Court for the Northern District of New York, do
8 hereby certify that pursuant to Section 753, Title 28,
9 United States Code, that the foregoing is a true and correct
10 transcript of the stenographically reported proceedings held
11 in the above-entitled matter and that the transcript page
12 format is in conformance with the regulations of the
13 Judicial Conference of the United States.

14

15 Dated this 20th day of February, 2015.

16

17

/s/ THERESA J. CASAL

18

THERESA J. CASAL, RPR, CRR, CSR

19

FEDERAL OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

20

21

22

23

24

25

**THERESA J. CASAL, RPR, CRR
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT - NDNY**